

Cross-discipline, awareness level training is a critical component of response to a natural disaster or terrorist attack. Washington State's Homeland Security Institute, under the direction of the Emergency Management Division, has developed eleven awareness-level online courses: Personal Protective Equipment, Operational Safety and Security, Mass Decontamination, WMD Awareness, Technical Rescue Awareness, NIMS, An Introduction (IS 700), Introduction to ICS (IS 100), Basic Incident Command System (IS-200), National Response Plan (IS 800.a), Emergency Responder Interface with Ferry Systems and Introduction to Hazardous Materials Awareness. All of the courses have gone through the rigorous Department of Homeland Security (DHS) review process, and are approved as equivalents for the 2006/07 NIMS requirements.

The 11 courses are self-paced, flexible, available to users 24/7, and free. They are designed to be completed all at once or when you find time. The online program keeps track of your progress and a certificate is available for print and email once the course has been successfully completed. Completions are included in the state data base and you can forward your certificate immediately to a supervisor or training manager. Each course is divided into lessons and takes between 3 - 5 hours to complete depending on your background.

NIMS (National Incident Management System) training guidelines require first level responders and disaster workers to complete IS 100 and IS 700. First line supervisors must complete IS 100, 200 and 700. Middle Management: Strike Team Leaders, Division Supervisors, EOC Staff, Command and General Staff; Area, Emergency and EOC Managers must complete IS-700, 800.a (NRP), 100, 200.



Introduction to Incident Command System (IS - 100 equivalent)

ICS 100 is a training course designed to help you learn about the organization structure and basic principles of the Incident Command System. This course is intended for entry level personnel. The information provided will enable you to assist at an incident (An incident is an occurrence, either human caused or by natural phenomena, that requires action by emergency service personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and/or natural resources) or to help support an incident from an off-site location.



Basic Incident Command System, IS 200 (IS 200 equivalent)

ICS 200 is designed to enable personnel to operate efficiently during an incident or event within the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS-200 provides training on and resources for personnel who are likely to assume a supervisory position within the ICS. The Incident Command System is an effective method for managing incident response activities. IS-100 is a pre-requisite to the IS-200 course.



National Incident Management System, An Introduction (IS - 700 equivalent)

NIMS provides a consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents. NIMS will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively to manage domestic incidents no matter what the cause, size or complexity.

National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction, (IS 800.a) Specifies how the resources of the Federal Government will work in concert with State, local, and tribal governments and the private sector to respond to Incidents of National Significance. The NRP is predicated on the National Incident Management System, or NIMS. Together the NRP and the NIMS provide a nationwide template for working together to prevent or respond to threats and incidents regardless of cause, size, or complexity. The course has been updated (800.a) to reflect changes to the NRP with the start of the hurricane season.



Technical Rescue Awareness This course will provide first responders with general knowledge to work on the scene of Technical Rescue incidents during the initial stages. There are 8 areas of instruction: General Standards, Structural Collapse, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Vehicle and Machinery Rescue, Water Rescue, Wilderness Search and Rescue, and Trench / Excavation Rescue. It is the intent of the course to provide participants with an understanding of laws, standards, terms, operating procedures for first in companies, and risks associated with each type of incident.



Personal Protective Equipment People have used personal protective equipment (PPE) for centuries to protect themselves while they work. For example:



- ◆ Blacksmiths have always used a leather apron
- ◆ Gloves, mask, and sterile equipment are used in the hospital
- ◆ Firemen wear heavy coats and special helmets

Personal protective equipment today, as in the past, makes working safer and you more productive. The overall goals of training are to protect the wearer from physical hazards (biological, chemical, radioactive) and to prevent injury from improper use or equipment malfunction. This course is focused on the uses and limitations of PPE-- at an awareness level.

Operational Safety and Security The Operational Safety and Security awareness focuses on applying the risk management model to health and safety aspects of emergency services operations. Content areas include the emergency services fatality and injury problem; the risk management process; safety responsibilities of discipline members; regulations, standards, and policies affecting emergency services safety; and appropriate documentation and record keeping pertaining to safety and security.



Mass Decontamination A great deal of mass decontamination equipment has been purchased by WA counties and regions in recent years. Unfortunately, supporting training has not kept pace. Decontamination is a very well understood technical expertise so much so that specialized teams have been created to respond to such events. Often, highly specialized teams cannot respond in the first critical hours of an incident leaving the response to possibly unprepared first responders. All emergency responders should receive awareness-level training in the process of mass decontamination. The course applies to CBRNE attacks, as well as natural disasters (such as avian flu pandemic) and industrial/ transportation accidents. The course addresses the aspects that you, a first responder, might be faced with when you are the first one to arrive at the scene. This course will help you be better prepared for procedures and approaches for decontamination and what factors need to be considered.



WMD Awareness (AWR – 160) The Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Awareness Level Course is targeted to individuals likely to witness, discover, or respond to a WMD incident and who have been trained to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities of what they see. Learners will be able to identify the components of terrorism, understand characteristics most likely to be present at an incident of terrorism, identify warning signs that indicate a possible incident of terrorism; understand incident priorities common to both incidents of terrorism and non-terrorism, and be able to relate differences and similarities in responder actions to incidents of terrorism and non-terrorism.



An Introduction to Hazardous Materials Response As a potential first-on-the-scene responder, your job may be to observe and report conditions to the appropriate authority. Personnel trained in addressing the event will then take control of the incident. The awareness level training program introduces the requirements for basic hazard recognition, identification, reporting, rules and regulations and self-protection for individuals who may do preliminary observation of an event. To accomplish further Haz Mat activities and certification, additional training for emergency responders is necessary (depending on your position requirements). The course introduces you to each of the levels of hazardous materials responders.



Emergency Responder Interface with Ferry Systems (ERIFS)



The Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified ferry systems as the number one potential maritime terrorist target in the U.S. The Washington State Ferry System is the largest in the nation. An attack on one of the larger commuter boats could result in a higher number of deaths than an attack on commercial aircraft or trains. Ferries are also continually at risk of an accident or a natural disaster. It is for these reasons that the Washington State Homeland Security Institute has committed to the development of ERIFS. ERIFS is a federal and state-approved course which helps answer the question “*What do all responders need to know to allow them to react quickly and effectively to a disaster or attack on a ferry?*” It consists of four modules: 1) Maritime Terrorism Awareness; 2) Ferry Vessels and the Maritime Environment; 3) Response and Recovery Considerations; and 4) Command and Policy Considerations.

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